Appl'n No: 10/569,005

Amdt dated March 12, 2008

Reply to Office action of December 19, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a

support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and

slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including a track, for mounting to the support surface;

a lifter arm for mounting the panel thereon, wherein the lifter arm includes at least

one foot disposed to slide along the track and the track includes a stop cooperating with

the lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along the track;

a cam follower disposed to slide along the track, the cam follower including a

wedge and a pivot arm mounted to the wedge, the pivot arm having a roller mounted

thereto; and

an actuator for linearly translating the cam follower;

wherein the lifter arm includes a cam profile provided as a flange on the lifter arm

that is sandwiched by the cam follower between the wedge and the roller such that the

cam follower is co-operable therewith to linearly translate the lifter arm until its linear

motion is arrested and to pivotably tilt the lifter arm when its linear motion is arrested.

4. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the actuator includes a

screw rotatably mounted to the frame and the cam follower includes a threaded bore in

meshing engagement with the screw so as to slide along the track when the screw is

rotated.

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5. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the actuator includes a

motor having an output shaft and a flexible drive cable operatively coupled between the

output shaft and one end of the screw.

6. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 5 having two said tracks

and two said screws arranged in parallel, each track having one of said lifter arms and

one of said cam followers disposed therein, and further including a transmission for

coupling the motor to two said flexible drive cables, each of which is coupled to one end

of the corresponding screw.

7. (Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the cam profile

includes a detent portion and the eam follower includes a wedge is seatable in the detent

portion as the lifter arm is linearly translated and movable out of the detent portion to

follow the remainder of the cam surface in order to pivotably tilt the lifter arm.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim [[8]] 7, wherein the detent

portion includes an abutment therein preventing the roller from moving past the

abutment.

10. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the at least

one foot includes a front slider which is pivotable in the track.

11. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the track

includes means co-operable with the front slider to arrest the linear translation of the lifter

arm.

12. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the lifter arm

includes a lock element slidable in the track, and the track includes a stop wall co-

operable with the lock element to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.

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13. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 12, wherein the track includes an

opening therein adjacent the stop wall and the opening leads to a channel extraneous of

the track, the lifter arm lock element moving into the channel as the lifter arm pivots.

14. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 13, including a panel

attached to the lifter arm.

15. (Previously presented) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a

support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and

slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including a track, for mounting to the support surface;

a lifter arm for mounting the panel thereon, wherein the lifter arm includes at least

one foot disposed to slide along the track and the track includes a stop cooperating with

the lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along the track;

a wedge disposed to slide parallel to the track, wherein the wedge includes a pivot

arm mounted thereto, the pivot arm having a roller mounted thereto; and

an actuator for linearly translating the wedge;

wherein the lifter arm includes a cam profile provided as a flange on the lifter arm

that is sandwiched between the wedge and the roller, and wherein the cam profile has a

detent portion enabling the wedge to linearly translate the lifter arm until its linear motion

is arrested, the wedge moving out of the detent portion to follow the remainder of the

cam profile and pivotably tilt the lifter arm when its linear motion is arrested.

16. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 15, wherein the actuator includes a

screw rotatably mounted to the frame and the wedge is part of a trolley slidably mounted

in the track and having a threaded bore in meshing engagement with the screw so as to

slide along the track when the screw is rotated.

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(Original) A mechanism according to claim 16, including a motor having an 17.

output shaft and a flexible drive cable operatively coupled between the output shaft and

one end of the screw.

(Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 17 having two said tracks 18.

and two said screws arranged in parallel, each track having one of said lifter arms and

one of said wedges disposed therein, and further including a transmission for coupling the

motor to two said flexible drive cables, each of which is coupled to one end of the

corresponding screw.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 18, wherein the detent

portion includes an abutment therein preventing the roller from moving past the

abutment.

(Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 20, wherein the at least 21.

one foot includes a front slider which is pivotable in the track.

(Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 21, wherein the track 22.

includes means co-operable with the front slider to arrest the linear translation of the lifter

arm.

(Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 22, wherein the lifter arm 23.

includes a lock element slidable in the track, and the track includes a stop wall co-

operable with the lock element to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.

(Original) A mechanism according to claim 23, wherein the track includes an 24.

opening therein adjacent the stop wall and the opening leads to a channel extraneous of

the track, the lifter arm lock element moving into the channel as the lifter arm pivots.

(Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim [[25]] 24, including a 25.

panel attached to the lifter arm.

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26. (Previously presented) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a

support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and

slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including one or more tracks, for mounting to the support surface;

one or more lifter arms for mounting the panel thereon, wherein each lifter arm

includes at least one foot disposed to slide along one of the tracks and each track includes

a stop cooperating with the corresponding lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along

the track;

a trolley disposed to slide along each track, wherein each trolley includes a wedge

having a pivot arm pivotally mounted thereto and a roller rotatably mounted to the pivot

arm; and

an actuator for linearly translating the trolleys;

wherein each lifter arm has a cam surface sandwiched between the wedge and the

roller of each corresponding trolley to linearly translate the lifter arm along the

corresponding track as the trolley is translated when the lifter arm is free to linearly

translate and to pivotably tilt the lifter arm as the trolley is further translated when the

lifter arm is arrested from linearly translating.